



US Forest Service Rim Fire Recovery Weekly Update

Date: March 25, 2014

General Background:

- The Rim Fire started in August 2013, and eventually burned 256,428 acres, including 154,430 acres on the Stanislaus National Forest. Burned Area Emergency Response addresses immediate hazards. The treatments have been completed with the exception of storm patrol and monitoring. The Pacific Southwest Region, with substantial ongoing collaboration, is proceeding on a staged decision effort to accomplish NEPA for the salvage of hazard trees and burned timber, and restoration.
- The Stanislaus National Forest has formed two interdisciplinary teams to produce:
 1. A focused environmental assessment (EA) for proposed hazard tree removal along 194 miles of high use Forest Service Maintenance Level 2/3/4/5 roads, administrative and recreation facilities, and areas adjacent to private infrastructure. The proposed action for this EA includes 10,315 acres of NFS lands, of which 8,986 acres are along roads.
 2. An environmental impact statement (EIS) regarding salvage and restoration. The objective of the project is to implement actions designed to reduce the potential for future catastrophic fire by reducing the fuel loading created by the Rim Fire, including capturing the perishable economic commodity value of the fire killed trees through timber salvage, in support of this objective. A total of 29,648 acres of NFS lands (all outside of inventoried roadless areas) are included in this project
- The Draft EA was released last week for public comment beginning on March 10 and ending on April 9, 2014, with a decision scheduled for May 2014.
- The Draft EIS is on schedule for release for public comment in April 2014, with a decision scheduled for August 2014.
- The Emergency Situation Determination (ESD) draft is now at the R5 Regional Office for review before going to Chief Tidwell for signature. ESDs may be made to protect human health and safety, mitigate threats to natural resources or to avoid loss of commodity values related to resource protection or restoration.
- BAER work continues in the field with cleaning culverts, storm patrol and monitoring. Contracting efforts are still being worked out.
- The filmmakers of the USFS “The Greatest Good” Stephen Most and Kevin White traveled to the Stanislaus NF to interview stakeholders regarding the Rim Fire and recovery efforts. They are interested in the work of a local collaborative group Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions (YSS) who re focusing their efforts on Rim Fire recovery and restoration efforts. The filmmakers are looking for funding for the project.
- The Rim Fire Recovery website is scheduled to launch this week.

For additional information please contact: Pamela Baltimore, Rim Fire Recovery Communication Team (209) 432-3709.